

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03 AGR-20 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 IO-14 LAB-06 NSAE-00

OIC-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02

SAM-01 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9534

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1841

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: QTRD, EFIN, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT INDO-US TRADE
COMMISSION

1. FOLLOWING ARE QUOTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, HINDUSTAN TIMES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE: BEGIN QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES IT IS LEARNED, HAS THROWN FEELERS ON SETTING UP A JOINT INDO-US ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR THE REMOVAL OF TRADE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, MINIMISATION OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND THE PROMOTION OF TRADE BY ENCOURAGING TRADE MISSIONS, FAIRS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

THE COMMISSION, IF SET UP, WOULD BE ON THE PATTERN OF AGREEMENTS THE US HAD WITH AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN. EXCEPT FOR ITEMS WHOSE QUOTAS HAVE BEEN FIXED, AS IN THE CASE OF TEXTILES, THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON INDIAN EXPORTS TO THE US. THE 1971 TRADE AGREEMENT IS ALSO NOW DUE FOR REVIEW.

THE PROPOSED COMMISSION, IT IS SUGGESTED SHOULD HAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS CHAIRMAN. A MINISTER AT THE TOP IS NECESSARY TO REACH QUICK DECISIONS WHERE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED. IT IS BELIEVED, THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMISSION IS ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA DRAWN FOR DR. HENRY KISSINGER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO INDIA.

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IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS INTRODUCED A TRADE
BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR A GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES TO
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE BILL, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN THE SENATE
PROVIDES FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF INDIAN ENGINEERING GOODS INTO
THE US. THIS FULFILS ASSURANCES GIVEN AT THE LAST UNCTAD MEETING.
END QUOTE.SCHNEIDER

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